

SOUTHERN GOLF GROUP INC

MEN'S PENNANT COMPETITION 2026

TERMS OF COMPETITION

1. The inter-club Southern Golf Group (SGG) Pennant competition is played annually by teams from SGG Affiliated Clubs. Teams from regional Clubs outside the SGG boundaries may participate if approved by the SGG Board and the applicable annual fee is paid. A club must be financial with the SGG to participate in the SGG Pennant competition. Should a club fail to pay the SGG Affiliation fee by the date stipulated, then that club shall be determined not to be financial until all outstanding fees are paid. During the period in which the club is deemed not to be financial, any points earned by all that club's teams in the SGG Pennant competition may be cancelled or as determined by the SGG Match Committee. The matches shall not be awarded to the opposing teams however, the opposing teams shall retain any points earned in those matches.
2. The winner of each grade will receive a plaque which is retained by the club. Perpetual Shields will no longer be presented annually. A virtual Honour Board will be created on the SGG website. The SGG will arrange for the plaques to be presented to the winning team at the conclusion of the finals matches.
3. The Pennant competition is conducted by the SGG Board in conjunction with the SGG Pennant Coordinator. The season program showing the draw, dates and venues will be provided to each competing Club.
4. **TEAM PLAYERS**
 - (a) To be eligible to compete in a Pennant match, a player must be a financial playing member of the club he represents. Players must meet the requirements of an amateur, in accordance with the Rules of Amateur Status.
 - (b) In exceptional circumstances, a junior player may be granted an exemption by the SGG Match Committee if he does not meet the player eligibility criteria set out in 4(a).

- (c) A club may appeal to the SGG Match Committee on behalf of the player in exceptional circumstances if that player falls outside the stated players eligibility set out in 4(a).
- (d) No player shall be eligible to play in the Men's Pennant competition for more than one affiliated SGG Club in any one season.
- (e) No player who has played 3 games or more in a higher grade or grades shall be eligible to play in a lower grade in any one season.
- (f) Clubs will no longer be required to register players. If another Club has an issue with the eligibility of an opposing Club's player, they are to formally advise the SGG Match Committee who will investigate and, if necessary, set a penalty.

5. MATCH OFFICIAL

The host club must provide a Rules Official who is responsible for administering the competition at each Pennant venue and determine any rules questions and disputes that may arise on the day. The person should not be a competitor in the event on the day.

6. STARTING TIME

Starting times for matches will be determined by the host club. These times will be shown on the season program.

Visiting team captains are responsible for confirming which tee and at what time their matches are to commence when arriving at each course.

7. PLAYING ORDER OF MATCHES

- (a) Ideally, all matches should be played in pairs. However, if the host club deems it necessary because of high numbers of teams on the course on the same day, the matches may be played in groups of four.
- (b) Team captains should toss a coin for the honour on the first tee to be played. Clubs listed first in the draw shall be deemed to be the host team for the purpose of reporting results to the SGG Pennant Coordinator.

- (c) The order of play shall be that the No. 7 player hit off first followed by No. 6 and so on subject to subparagraph 7(e).
- (d) Players in C Grade must play in handicap order i.e. the lowest handicap player (GA) must play at No. 1 and so on with the highest handicap player at no. 7.
- (e) If the players is not ready to begin play in turn, his name, with that of his opponent, shall be placed at the end of the list and if he is not then ready to play, his game shall be forfeited.

8. SCORING SHEETS

Scoring sheets showing the playing position of each player shall be exchanged between the two captains before the start of the first match. Once the team sheets have been exchanged, no alteration shall be permitted unless it is to correct the playing order of a player to comply with 7 (d) or (e).

9. HOME AND AWAY MATCHES – ALL GRADES

- (a) All matches shall be decided by match play over eighteen holes. If the match is square at the completion of the eighteenth hole, the match is drawn and the score recorded as a half.
- (b) The winning team shall be that team which wins the greatest number of matches. In the event that both teams win 3.5 matches each, then the match will be drawn with equal points awarded. Match points awarded are 2 for the winning team or 1 each in the event of a draw.

10. ABANDONMENT OR CANCELLATION OF MATCH

- (a) Should a match be abandoned by decision of the Match referee in attendance, the result will be a draw i.e. 3.5 matches to 3.5 matches. However, should one team already have established a winning position i.e. a minimum of 4 matches won, that result will stand and any remaining matches abandoned shall be shared equally.
- (b) In the event that a Final is abandoned for any reason, the match is to be played on the following Sunday at the same programmed course unless circumstances do not permit. The SGG Match Committee will arbitrate in this instance and its decision shall be final.

11. BYES

- (a) Players who would normally play in a team that has a bye shall not be permitted to play for a team in a lower grade in that round. However, a player can play for a team in a higher grade.
- (b) No player can be considered as having played a match or achieve qualification for a final because of a bye. Match points will not be awarded because of a bye.

12. FORFEITS

In the event of a team withdrawing at any time during the competition, the SGG Match Committee shall have the power to determine the eligibility of opposing team players both before and after the withdrawal to compete in finals.

- (a) Players registered in a team that receives a forfeit will be counted as the match played for eligibility to play in finals.
- (b) The team that receives the forfeit will be determined to have won the match 7 nil.

13. RESULTS

At the end of the match, it shall be the responsibility of the host captain, as per 7(b), to:

- (a) Notify the result by email or text to the SGG Pennant Coordinator by no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the final match.
- (b) If the results are phoned, then the results sheet must be posted or emailed to the SGG Pennant Coordinator so that they will be received no later than the following Tuesday.

14. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR FINALS.

- (a) A player must have played at least two Pennant matches for the club during the current Pennant season.
- (b) A player cannot play for a lower grade than they normally played for during the minor rounds.
- (c) Clubs participating in a finals match are required to verify the eligibility of each player and email the player squad from which the final 7 players to compete in the final will be selected to the SGG Pennant Coordinator as soon as possible but no later than the Tuesday after the last minor round. The SGG Pennant Coordinator will confirm that the players listed are eligible to compete in the final.

15. FINALS MATCHES – ALL GRADES

- (a) The SGG Match Committee shall determine the dates and venues.
- (b) Top two teams in each grade as determined by rule 15(c) shall play in that grades final.
- (c) The two teams to play finals will be decided by the number of matches won, lost or drawn i.e. highest number of points awarded. If the number of points scored is equal, then the number of individual games won will decide. If the number of individual games won is equal, then the total net holes up for the season will decide.
- (d) The team honour for the finals will be decided by toss of coin.
- (e) All matches shall be decided by match play over eighteen holes. If the match is square at the eighteenth hole, then the match shall continue from the tee from which the match commenced until a result is achieved. In the case of handicap grades, the handicap differential shall be applied in accordance with the Handicap Match Play Index i.e. strokes are awarded as in the original round.

16. GRADES

- (a) Unless approved by the SGG Board, no club shall be permitted to have more than one team in any Grade.
- (b) Due to the fact the number of nominations for teams to compete may vary from one year to another, the SGG Pennant Coordinator shall, on receipt of all nominations, determine the grading of all teams taking into consideration the results from the previous year.
- (c) In the event that a vacancy occurs in a grade after they have been determined by the SGG Board and circulated to all clubs, the SGG Board has the right to nominate a team to fill that vacancy without the necessity of doing a complete revision of the grades for the whole competition.
- (d) C Grade (Handicap Match Play) – The following specific rules will apply
- (i) Maximum playing handicap permitted shall be 27.
 - (ii) Players must use their current Golf Australia (GA) handicap then adjust this handicap using the Daily Handicap Look-up Chart for the course to determine their playing handicap.
 - (iii) Should the adjusted playing handicap be more than 27, the handicap is reduced to 27.
 - (iv) **The Handicap Match Play Index as per the Golf Australia guidelines (see below) shall be used for all Handicap Match Play games with the number one hole being the first hole on which the competition commences. The difference in handicap shall be taken as per this Handicap Match Play Index.**

HANDICAP MATCH PLAY INDEX

HOLE	INDEX	HOLE	INDEX
1	18	10	5
2	8	11	11
3	12	12	2
4	3	13	15
5	14	14	7
6	6	15	13
7	10	16	4
8	1	17	17
9	16	18	9

All GA handicaps must be current at the time of the match.

17. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION BETWEEN GRADES

- (a) There shall be a guiding principle for full promotion or relegation within and between Grades A and B – e.g. the winner of B1 will be promoted to A2 and the bottom A2 team will be relegated to B1. However, where this will result in two teams from the same club being in the same grade (see Rule 16(a)), the SGG Match Committee is empowered to either:
 - (i) Retain those teams in the same grade as the previous year, and
 - (ii) Balance the competition across the grades based on the known strengths of the various teams.

- (b) All C grade teams are at the same level therefore there shall be no formal promotion or relegation. However, the SGG Pennant Coordinator will take into consideration when determining this grade's teams, which clubs played against each other in the previous year.

18. VIOLATION OF TERMS OF COMPETITION

- (a) If a club or player violates any of these Terms of Competition, the SGG Match Committee will notify the club or player of the alleged breach and invite a response.

- (b) The SGG Match Committee may invite a player or club representative to appear before it or it may appoint a representative or representatives to conduct a detailed investigation or hold hearings on alleged violations.

- (c) The SGG Match Committee has the right to impose a penalty relevant to these Terms of Competition. For any breach of the Terms of Competition for which there is no specific penalty, the SGG Match Committee will consider the nature of the breach and, if deemed necessary, apply an appropriate penalty. The club or individual will be informed of the SGG Match Committee decision. Should a club or individual consider the penalty incorrect or inappropriate, then they may appeal in writing to the SGG Board, through the Board Secretary, within three days of being advised. Late appeals will not be considered.

- (d) The principles of natural justice will apply.

19. PROTESTS

Should a team wish to protest the outcome of a match for any reason, the captain of that team should notify the opposing captain within 15 minutes of the completion of the final match. A protest or complaint shall be lodged in writing with the SGG Pennant Coordinator before 5.00 p.m. on the Tuesday following the match and the decision of the SGG Match Committee will be final.

20. LOCAL RULES

The captain of the host club shall supply to the captain of each visiting team a copy of the club's Local Rules and Temporary Local Rules. All teams at the course must adhere to these rules.

21. ADVICE

In accordance with the Rules of Golf - Rule 10.2, no advice is to be accepted or given by any person other than the players caddie. The Rules Official may give advice on a question on Rules.

22. USE OF DISTANCE MEASURING DEVICES (INCLUDING MOBILE PHONE APPS)

The use of a personal distance measuring device by a player or caddie is permitted provided the device is used only as per Rules of Golf - Rule 4.3a.

23. USE OF MOTORISED BUGGIES

Motorised buggy means an electric or motor driven vehicle on which a player or caddie may sit or ride whilst the appliance is in motion. The use of motorised buggies shall be permitted during Pennant competition except in the following circumstances:

- (i) The host club may refuse permission for the use of motorised buggies, if, due to the condition of the course, it is considered unsafe and/or the course could be damaged by using the motorised buggy.
- (ii) Clubs are encouraged to give as much warning as possible to visiting teams that use of a motorised buggy will be doubtful for the coming weekend so that clubs have ample time, if required, to adjust their team selection.
- (iii) Notwithstanding, the onus is on the player to check that he may hire or use his personal motorised buggy on the course he is to play.

24. MOBILE PHONES

- (a) The use of a mobile phone for conversation or texting by a player or his caddie whilst on the course during a match is prohibited unless agreed by the opponent. However, the phone must be turned off or set so it does not give an audible sound. A mobile phone may only be used for reasons considered urgent by both competitors or for contacting the Rules Official for a ruling.
- (b) Breach of this Term of Competition is loss of hole being played when the phone is used without agreement, or the mobile phone gives an audible sound.
- (c) A mobile phone may be used as in paragraph 22 within these Terms of Competition.

25. ALCOHOL

The consumption of alcohol by a player or caddie during a match is strictly prohibited. Penalty – Refer Golf Australia Code of Conduct.

26. SMOKING

Players and caddies are not permitted to smoke cigarettes or the like (including E-cigarettes) during a stipulated match. Penalty – Refer Golf Australia Code of Conduct.

27. CADDIES

A player is permitted to have the use of a caddie, with no restrictions as to who may act as a caddie including a player who has concluded their match in the same contest. Rules of Golf – Rule 10.3.

28. SOFT SPIKES

All players and caddies will wear shoes as permitted by the host club. Penalty – loss of each hole played whilst wearing illegal shoes.

29. PRACTICE PRIOR TO MATCH

On the day of the match, team members from either side shall be permitted to practice only in those areas designated by the host club. Clubs are encouraged to allow practice on the course as per normal conditions for Match Play.

30. CATERING

- (a) Host clubs and Course Management are encouraged to provide a simple, inexpensive meal for competing team members at the completion of the match. Cost should be borne by the player unless subsidised or paid for by their own club.
- (b) Although not mandatory, in the spirit of Pennant competition, team players and supporters are strongly encouraged to attend the after match meal to foster good relations and promote camaraderie among the players.
- (c) With many clubs using contract catering, each visiting club Pennant Coordinator is responsible for advising the host club prior to the match, the number of their players, caddies and supporters requiring a meal so that catering staff are prepared.

31. COVID-19

Clubs must comply with any COVID-19 requirements in force at the time, including the specific requirements of the host club. Team members should familiarise themselves with the latest directives from Golf Australia regarding COVID-19 golfing requirements.